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Information

For the protection of the achievements of the GDR population it is necessary to set up more efficient party combat groups than previously. In political respects, the combat groups will be subordinate to the SED, in military respects - military training and employment - they will be subordinate to the Deutsche Volkspolizei (German People's Police) (DVP). These combat groups have to be organized along the following lines:

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1. The combat groups are to be re-organized into Gruppen, Zuege, and Hundertschaften. The Gruppe consists of the Gruppe leader and 9 men. The Zug consists of a Zug leader, a deputy Zug leader and 3 Gruppen, i.e. a total of 32 men. Three Zuege form a Hundertschaft which is led by a Hundertschaft commander, a deputy Hundertschaft commander, a political officer and an interior duty officer.
2. A combat group headquarters has to be set up in each Kreis. All combat groups of a Kreis are subordinate to the combat group Kreis headquarters, which receive their orders and directives for the training and employment of the combat groups exclusively from the head of the Volks-Polizei-Kreisamt (Kreis office of the People's Police) or from superior DVP-offices. The combat group Kreis headquarters will be composed of the following 4 comrades:
 - a) The commanding officer, who must be a reliable member of the DVP. Normally the most reliable member of the security department of the VP-Kreisamt will be chosen for this post.
 - b) A deputy commanding officer

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c) A commissioner of the SED Kreis headquarters, preferably a member of the SED Kreis headquarters.

d) An interior duty officer

4. Motorcycle messengers also belong to the combat group Kreis headquarters. In large factories where the total strength of combat groups consists of 2 or more Hundertschaften, combat group factory headquarters will be set up which consists of a combat group commander, a deputy combat group commander, a commissioner of the SED factory headquarters (preferably a member of the SED factory headquarters), an interior duty officer, and, according to the number of Hundertschaften of a factory, 2-8 motorcycle passengers. In factories with only 1 Hundertschaft, the Hundertschaft commander and the combat group commander are the same person. The party secretary of a factory is responsible for the adequate political instruction of the factory combat group, but he is not a member of the combat group, because in the event of the employment of the combat group the factory must not be left without the party secretary.

3. In order to make the combat groups as efficient as possible the combat units of smaller factories will be concentrated into 1 Hundertschaft. Local conditions will have to be taken into consideration. Military training will always be carried out at Hundertschaft level. In the villages the Maschinentraktorenstationen (Machine Tractor Stations), the Volkseigene Güter (Nationalized Farms), and the Landwirtschaftliche Produktionsgenossenschaften (Agricultural Production Cooperatives) will have to form combat groups. With the exception of the commanding officer of the combat group Kreis headquarters, the Gruppe leaders, the Zug leaders, the Hundertschaft commanders, the deputy Hundertschaft commanders, the members of the combat group factory headquarters, and the combat group Kreis headquarters will be selected from the ablest members of the combat groups by the DVP officers who are in charge of the military training of the combat groups. Preference will be given to persons who have attended special four-week combat group training courses arranged by the DVP. For all leading functions within the combat groups only SED members and SED candidates who are supported by the SED Kreis headquarters will be taken into consideration. The combat group leaders of all positions and ranks must be trained in such a way that they can train their units under the guidance of DVP instructors as soon as possible.

4. The following persons will be admitted to combat groups:

- Male SED members and SED candidates.
- Male, progressive, class-conscious non-party-members, as well as members of the Trade Unions and the FDJ.
- Male, progressive LFG farmers and non-LFG farmers without party membership, as well as progressive LFG-farmers who are members of the Demokratische Bauernpartei Deutschlands (Democratic Farmers' Party of Germany) (DBP). The LFG farmers with DBP membership will have to be confirmed as members of a combat group by the LFG party headquarters or by the pertinent combat group party headquarters.
- Male, progressive members of the technical, scientific, and artistic intelligentsia.
- The minimum age for admission to the combat groups is 25 years.
- Women will receive medical training through the German Red Cross and, on request, small-bore rifle practice. After the completion of the medical training each Hundertschaft will be assigned a leitende Sanitäterin (head nurse) and each Zug a Sanitäterin (nurse). These women will attend the military training and employment of their combat units, their assignment is therefore permanent. Additionally in each Gruppe one man has to receive extra training as litter bearer by the German Red Cross over and above his military training.

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- g) Nobody will be admitted to the combat groups without medical investigation, which will be carried out by the responsible infirmary. Only persons found to be physically fit will be admitted. The investigation findings have to be kept by the party headquarters.
- h) Veteran party members who are unable to undergo full training will receive lighter training and form special combat units.
- i) Without paying extra fees, all members of the combat units are fully insured against accidents according to the definitions of the Sozialversicherung (National Health Insurance). This insurance includes accidents which occur during the actual military training and employment and on the way to and from the training and employment.
- j) Members of the voluntary DVP auxiliary units cannot become members of the combat groups and vice versa. The recruiting campaign of the combat groups must therefore exclude the voluntary DVP-auxiliary units and vice versa. The members of the voluntary DVP-auxiliary units are trained by the DVP independently.
- k) Members of the combat groups cannot be members of the GST and vice versa.

5. The Volkspolizei-Aemter (bureaus of the DVP) are fully responsible for the training and the employment of the combat groups. The discipline of the combat groups must be strict. All activities of the combat groups must be based on military orders.

6. Training time for the combat groups is four hours a week. No working time must be used for training activities. Training activities have to start on 1 June 1955 according to the training program laid down by the SED Central Committee.

7. The combat groups have to be equipped with uniform headgear (ski-cap). Uniform clothing (blue overalls with red arm-band) for training is the goal. Only permanent members of the combat groups are allowed to wear this clothing.

8. Firing practices are limited to permanent members of the combat groups who regularly take part in all training activities. Only DVP training officers or heads of the Volkspolizei-Kreiszenter are authorized to issue weapons and ammunition and to decide on the admission for firing practices.

9. All functionaries of the combat groups (Gruppe leader, Zug leader, Hundertschaft commander, interior duty officers, members of the combat group headquarters) have to wear insignia indicating their respective rank. The insignia, which have to be uniform, will be defined by the DVP in the combat group service order.

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Comment: The training of the combat groups by the DVP was put into practice by order No 27/55 of the Chef der Deutschen Volkspolizei (head of the DVP) on 20 June 1955.

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